

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated January 12, 2004, and further in response to the Official Action dated July 29, 2003, please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.